

but, after the Supreme Court has appointed Commissioners, and they have assessed and made out their extravagant bills for surveying, assessing and advertising, *then* the tax-payer may come in and protest. Very well. Does his protest save all this assessing, surveying, &c.? Not a bit of it. That much, at least, is secure; and by hook or crook, the outrageous bills will be paid in spite of protest.

One of the old jokers who attended this meeting brought his pocket-slate, and while the opposed three-fourths of the property-owners were exhausting their steam, this old joker jotted down certain speculations, by which he insinuated (of course he was a wicked libeler) that it was barely possible that when four or five corporations, worth a million each, had set their hearts upon such a project, and only half-a-dozen small property owners stood in the way, these rich corporations would "convince" some of these few property-holders that they were right. Of course this is a base slander, for no enterprising public citizen or corporation undertaking a job of five millions expense to the people would possibly take a step not sanctioned by the most careful regard for the interest of the men who are to bleed. Individual and corporate virtue indignantly forbid the supposition. Yet we hardly know what to make of yesterday's meeting; it is a sort of "blow hot, blow cold," which cost a certain fabulous giant his precious life. Is our great giant, the people, so helpless before its Common Council Railway Jack?

#### That New Broadway.

Nothing could more completely illustrate the utter helplessness of the taxpayers of this city against any raid that organized self-interest may make upon them than the proceedings (reported in another column) of the meeting held yesterday to oppose, or at least to look into, the plan for the widening of Ann-street, the destruction of the block between William and Gold, and the tearing down of the United States Hotel. There met on this occasion a crowd of men who seemed to know little of the law and less of its executors; who had as many opinions as they had heads about the rights and duties of the antagonistic parties; who had no more comprehension or apprehension of their proper course than the most fickle mind that ever tormented a mariner.

Judge HILTON, however, seemed to appreciate the situation. He said the corporation could widen, alter or extend *any* street on their mere motion, and the only resource in the way of opposition left to the men whose houses were to be torn down or assessed, was *after* the assessment for a job forced upon them without notice and against their will.

Now, what is the upshot of this public meeting? In general terms it is about this: Half-a-dozen conflicting schemes of opposition, insane, idiotic, incomprehensible, inchoate, impracticable, unreasonable, unseasonable and mildly sensible. The general result seems to be that the Common Council may open streets at will, asking no permission and observing no forms;